

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05702 101725Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-05 VO-03 MMO-04 A-01 SCA-01

PPTE-00 /029 W

-----074562 110324Z /62

R 101636Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3115

UNCLAS PANAMA 5702

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER AFSP CGEN

SUBJ: REQUEST TEMPORARY FSL EXTENSION

REF: PANAMA 3399

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY REQUESTS AUTHORIZATION EXTEND TEMPORARY FULL-TIME FSL PRESENTLY ON BOARD IN CONSULAR SECTION FOR ADDITIONAL 120 DAYS (I.E. UNTIL 15 FEB 1978). THIS POSITION IS NEEDED TO COPE WITH CONTINUING HIGH VOLUME OF CONSULAR WORK.

2. VISAS. VISA CASELOAD HAS MORE THAN FULFILLED PROJECTIONS INDICATED IN PANAMA REFTEL. LABOR-INTENSIVE IMMIGRANT VISA (IV) WORK HAS DOUBLED OVER THAT OF 1976 DURING QUARTER JUST ENDED, WITH REFUSAL RATE SLOWLY RISING AS CONSULAR PERSONNEL GRAPPLE WITH EXPANDING PROBLEM OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS (PREVIOUSLY REPORTED IN SEPTELS). FRAUD PROBLEMS ALSO INTENSIFYING IN NIV WORK, AS INDICATED BY WIDELY-PUBLICIZED FRAUDULENT ENLISTMENT IN U.S. ARMED FORCES, BY ALIENS OBTAINING NIV THIS POST. EMBASSY FORESEES NO LET UP IN EITHER AREA.

3. NEW IMMIGRATION PRESSURES. PANAMA'S ESCALATING CONSULAR WORKLOAD NOT CONFINED SOLELY TO VISAS, PPT AND CITIZENSHIP WORKLOAD ALSO EXPANDING AS GROWING NUMBER OF AMERICAN CITIZENS
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(INCLUDING THOSE WITH LONG-NEGLECTED CLAIMS TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP) REEVALUATE THEIR PERSONAL SITUATIONS IN VIEW OF PERCEIVED LIKELIHOOD OF NEW CANAL TREATY. INDEED, MOST SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENT IN CONSULAR WORKLOAD IN PANAMA IS FACT THAT SOME PANAMANIAN (AND AMERICAN) MAY NOW SEE A NEW TREATY AS NOT ONLY HIGHLY LIKELY BUT PREJUDICIAL TO THEIR PERSONAL INTERESTS. THEIR RUSH TO DEPART IS EXPECTED -- LEGALLY

IF POSSIBLE (I.E. THROUGH EXERCISE OF LEGITIMATE CLAIMS TO CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRANT STATUS), ILLEGALLY IF NECESSARY (I.E. THROUGH PRESENTATION OF FALSE DOCUMENTS PURPORTING U.S. CITIZENSHIP, OR FALSELY ESTABLISHING ENTITLEMENT TO IMMIGRANT STATUS. POST THEREFORE BELIEVES CONSULAR WORKLOAD WILL CONTINUE TO CLIMB, DESPITE FACT THAT SEASONALLY HEAVY DEMAND FOR CONSULAR SERVICES WOULD NORMALLY BEGIN TO DECLINE AT THIS TIME. WE THEREFORE FORESEE NEED FOR SUBJECT P.I.T. POSITION THROUGHOUT NORMALLY "SLACK" FALL SEASON AND INTO SECOND ANNUAL PEAK-LOAD (DECEMBER-JANUARY) PERIOD.

4. PRIORITY REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED; AS TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT MUST BE TERMINATED EFFECTIVE C.O.B. 19 AUGUST 1977.
JORDEN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05702
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770288-1094
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770876/aaaacmup.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PANAMA 3399
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1646525
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST TEMPORARY FSL EXTENSION
TAGS: APER, AFSP, CGEN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4cc0305d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009